



# I N F O R M E R

Anne Arundel Retired School Personnel Association

February 2025

Volume 50 Issue 4



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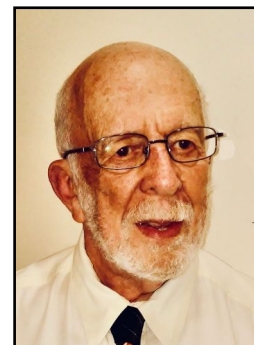
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Co-Presidents  
Sharyn Doyle  
and  
Anthony Anzalone  
**FEBRUARY**  
**FESTIVE and FROSTY!**



, **FEBRUARY**, the shortest month with only 28 days, is packed with birthdays, observances, honors, and celebrations. There are Groundhog, Valentine's, President's, Lincoln's, Washington's, Susan B. Anthony's, and Frederick Douglass's days. Let's not forget Super Bowl Sunday! For those who wish to celebrate the whole month long, there are Black History, Heart Health, Boost Self-Esteem, and National Chocolate/Cherry/Strawberry/Sweet Potato Pie months. You can also celebrate Marijuana Awareness, Love the Bus, and Time Management. Google has 87 (at least) ways for you to celebrate February.

Here's one you won't find on Google for March... **AARSPA IN FLORIDA**. This gathering is held yearly in March to foster and maintain the close kinship with our "brothers and sisters" in Florida. NOW is the time for YOU to send in your RESERVATION. The dates are MARCH 12th and 13th. The Social is at the home of Debbie and Bryan Groff on the 12th; the Luncheon/Meeting is at High Tide Harry's restaurant on the 13th. Come to both events or just to one. The FLORIDA GATHERING IS A TRADITION!

The second trip on the calendar (and soon also to become a tradition) is the **AARSPA EASTERN SHORE GATHERING**. It will be held on April 11, 2025, at Ocean Pines Yacht Club. Details are forthcoming.

Do you have **time**? AARSPA needs some of your time—not a lot of it, just a little. The Educator/Employee of the Month Selection Committee needs some new members to choose the October—May Anne Arundel County Board of Education recognitions. AARSPA selects; AACBOE recognizes. Contact Tony Anzalone, [ajapop1@yahoo.com](mailto:ajapop1@yahoo.com)/410-268-0587, if you wish to volunteer for this committee.

Buddy Holly was 22 years old when he died in a plane crash. He was the 1950's bespectacled pioneer of *Rock 'n Roll*. Kay Stawas and Gail Matthews, our Trip Committee Co-Chairs, are looking to book "**The Buddy Holly Story**" for September 6 at the Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre. The cost is \$129, including lunch. Remember when we used to sing along to "Peggy Sue", "Everyday", and "That'll Be the Day"?! This one will sell out quickly.

From the Central Office to the Arundel Center to the State House to Congress, politicians are singing "Money Makes the World Go Around; the World Go Around; Money Makes the World Go Around." That's right, it is budget time. The County Government *and* the County Board of Education have published calendars with Budget Hearing dates on their respective websites. Our Legislative

(Continued on page 2)

(Co-Presidents, page 1)

Watchdogs Virginia Crespo and Sharyn Doyle, as well as MRSPA, will inform us about what our Elected State House folk are doing. You and I need to do our job, too. We need to read, listen, and watch.

As we journey through February, let's embrace its themes of love, reflection, and renewal. Take this month to connect with others, honor history, and prepare yourself for the season ahead.

Happy February!



### Community Service



How big is your community? While our committee focuses on helping Anne Arundel County, what if you could make a difference on a much larger scale? There is a

website (CitizenScience.org) that lists projects in need of volunteers to provide input to various government agencies and universities. The list of organizations seeking help is extensive and includes the National Security Agency (NSA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the Smithsonian Institution (SI), just to name a few.

There is a project for every interest. a few examples are:

- grow specific seeds provided by the agency and record observation data
- collect water quality data in the Chesapeake Bay
- collect and monitor organisms in rain water
- projects for HAM operators

Check out the website and expand the size of your community!

- Phyllis Cherry  
Community Service Committee Chair

Check out the following pages:

Anne Arundel Retired School Personnel Association (AARSPA)

National Retired Teachers Association (NRTA)

Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS)

Maryland Retired School Personnel Association (MRSPA)



## News You Can Use

Do you ever feel lonely or know someone who has withdrawn over time? Researchers have declared loneliness as a national health emergency affecting every age group. Prolonged loneliness can affect one's health equal to smoking fifteen cigarettes a day. The risk of heart disease can increase as much as 20%, stroke 32%, and an increase of 50% in the risk of dementia.

There are several reasons we can feel lonely. Technology allows us to text a friend instead of actually talking to them. Why leave the house when whatever we need can be delivered to our door? Also, health concerns may make moving about more difficult. Add to this, our family and friends may have moved away or are facing their own challenges. Loneliness is more pronounced in the winter months when leaving the house may be unsafe, and there is less of the much needed sunlight our bodies need.

There are some simple ways to fight loneliness:

- Check out classes at a Senior Center.
- Take a walk.
- Sit in the sun even if remaining in your house.
- Call a friend; it will benefit both of you.
- Go somewhere.

-Phyllis Cherry  
Consumer Benefits Committee Chair

### Consumer Education Committee

Have you ever considered **Long Term Health Insurance**? If so, you may want to watch the webinar which was presented by Academy Financial on November 20, 2024. You can access the webinar on the MRSPA website ([MRSPA.org](http://MRSPA.org)) under **News & Events>Resources>Seminars & Videos**.

# AARSPA IN FLORIDA

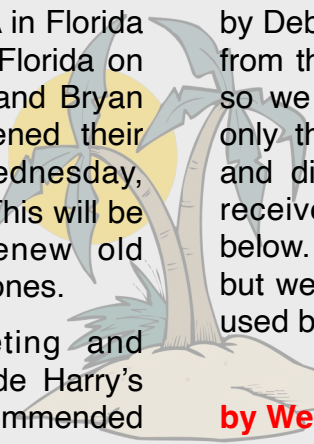
**LAST CALL!**

This year's annual AARSPA in Florida event will be held in Kissimmee, Florida on March 12 and 13, 2025. Debbie and Bryan Groff have again graciously opened their house for socialization on Wednesday, March 12 from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. This will be a wonderful opportunity to renew old friendships and create some new ones.

Then, our general meeting and luncheon will be held at High Tide Harry's Restaurant that comes highly recommended

by Debbie and Bryan. We will be able to select from the extensive lunch and early bird menu so we will not have to limit our selection to only three entrée items. Specific information and directions will be sent to you once we receive your completed reservation form below. There are numerous hotels in the area, but we will try to research some that we have used before for availability and prices.

**Reservation forms must be received by Wednesday, February 26, 2025.**



Send your completed reservation form to:  
Bob Kanach, 512 Augusta Drive, Arnold, MD 21012



CUT AND RETURN THE COMPLETED RESERVATION FORM BELOW

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional person/people in your party:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Even if you are not able to attend the luncheon on March 13, you are welcome to join us at the Groff's on March 12. In order to help determine how much refreshments to purchase, please indicate the number of people attending this event with you, including yourself.

\_\_\_\_\_ person/people will be attending the social at the Groff's on March 12.

# REMEMBRANCE

## Member Deaths

Agnes T. Abernethy  
Geraldine C. Cassell  
Gwendolyn E. Churchill  
Jean Curry  
Richard "Dick" Powell  
Gail M. Trettel

## Get Well

Peggy Fader  
Ed Johnson  
Phyllis Mentzell  
Tom Paolino  
Ron Ruffo  
Henry Shubert  
Annette Smith

## Family Member Deaths

Chris Mirenyi            Mother  
Kathleen J. Swartz    Brother  
Andrea C. Zamora      Father

## Emeritus Birthday

January 30    Mary A. Perry    90

If you have information concerning AARSPA members, please contact the following people:

### Anniversaries and Congratulations

Millie Gardner at [milliegardner65@gmail.com](mailto:milliegardner65@gmail.com) or 443-784-2190

### Deaths of AARSPA members and family members

Linda Poole at [mip2118@yahoo.com](mailto:mip2118@yahoo.com) or 410-570-4020

### Illnesses and Accidents, etc.

Dianne Rogers at [wvdsrogers@verizon.net](mailto:wvdsrogers@verizon.net) or 410-647-7585

## Scholarship Update!

As kind-hearted donors, your generosity will enable graduating seniors to become the architect of knowledge, designing a blueprint for success in each student's life. Thank you!

### In Honor of...

Mrs. Doris S. Knight  
(support of the Wiley H. Bates Legacy Center)

- Tillie Barckley  
Scholarship Committee Chair



## New Opportunity!

There is now another way to support AARPA's Scholarship Program! The link below allows you to donate online to the AARSPA Scholarship Program through the Education Foundation of AACPS.

<https://aacpsfoundation.networkforgood.com/projects/242891-anne-arundel-retired-school-personnel-association-aarspa>



# AARSPA NEEDS YOU!

AARSPA's standing committees are always looking for new members; new faces bring new ideas! Which committee could best make use of your time and talents?

Do you enjoy keeping tabs on what is happening in Annapolis and Capitol Hill? The **Legislative Committee** needs you!

Do you find yourself singing along to tunes on the radio? Add your voice to the **Voices in Melody** chorus!

Do you have a passion for helping the less fortunate? The **Community Service** Committee could use an extra pair of hands!

Are you a history buff who enjoys visiting historical sights? The **Free School Museum** could always use another docent!

Do you spend a lot of time checking out and posting on Facebook, X (formerly known as Twitter),

TikTok, and other social media platforms? If so, the **Public Relations** Committee would love to utilize your skills!

Are you ready to hop on a tour bus or go to a Broadway show at a moment's notice? The **Trips and Travel** Committee would appreciate your suggestions!

Are you passionate about the future of public education and those who will shape it? The **Scholarship** Committee could benefit from your enthusiasm!

These are just a few ways you could make a difference by participating in AARSPA! If you are interested in more information, please get in touch with Sharyn or Tony. They'll be happy to assist you.



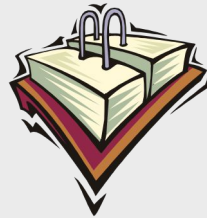


**MEETING DATES**

**Executive Board Meetings -10:00 a.m.**  
 April 10, 2025 MRSPA Office  
 Odenton  
 June 12, 2025 Free School  
 July 10, 2025 Room 2A, AACPS

**General Membership Meetings - 10:30 a.m.**  
 February 13, 2025 Renditions Golf Course  
 Davidsonville  
 May 8, 2025 Two Rivers Steak and Fish House  
 Pasadena

**DATES TO REMEMBER**



March 12-13, 2025 Florida Get Together  
 Kissimmee, FL  
 April 11, 2025 AARSPA on the Eastern Shore  
 Ocean Pines Yacht Club  
 May 6, 2025 MRSPA Annual Business Meeting  
 Turf Valley Resort

**OTHER DATES**

**It's MRSPA Foundation Raffle Time!**

The MRSPA Community Service and Scholarship Committees provide tremendous support to students and staff in our schools across Maryland. Therefore, we are seeking **donations** to the *MRSPA Foundation* so that we can continue our work. Again, this year, raffle tickets will be purchased solely through the MRSPA newsletter and through local association newsletters using the form below. All donations are tax deductible and come with our thanks and appreciation!

Your name will be entered into a drawing upon receipt of your donation based on this criterion: Donations of \$10 will earn 1 raffle ticket while donations of \$25 will earn 3 raffle tickets incrementally. MRSPA staff will write your name on the correct number of tickets and send your tickets stubs to you in the US Mail when we receive your check. The drawing will take place at the May 2025 Annual Business Meeting whether held in person or virtually. You can win the \$300 cash first prize, a Maryland themed basket valued at \$175 second prize, or one of 5 third place themed baskets valued at \$125: Cooking, Game Night, Wine Lover, Book Worm, and Sports Lover. Out-of-state winners will receive gift cards in lieu of basket contents.

**Entering the drawing is fun and easy!**

1. Make your check payable to **MRSPA Foundation**.
2. Write **MRSPA Foundation** on the FOR line.
3. Date and **sign** your check.
4. **Mail** check and completed form to MRSPA at 8379 Piney Orchard Parkway, Suite A, Odenton, MD 21113 **before March 21, 2025**.

**Will you send a donation today?**

**Receipts and ticket stubs will be sent via US Mail.**



**MRSPA Foundation**

**Your Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Your Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

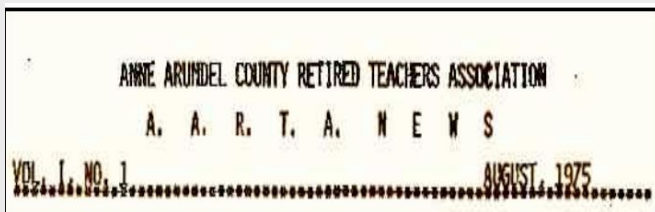
**Home Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cell Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

# From the Desk of the Editor...



With this volume of the **AARSPA Informer**, our Association newsletter is in its 50th year of keeping our members up-to-date on Association activities. The newsletter was originally issued four times a year until Volume 31, 2005-2006, when a December issue was added. When the Florida Get-Together was moved from January to March in 2014, the December issue was moved to January. Today, the newsletter is shared with members in two ways: regular mail and digitally through Constant Contact. In August 2014, I wrote an article for the newsletter, tracking the evolution of the newsletter's names and logos over the years. The content also proved interesting!



The first edition of **AARTA NEWS** was published in August, 1975. The staff at TAAAC typed and reproduced this issue. Mrs Virginia D. Moore was the President of the Association which boasted 179 active members and two honorary members. The State Association, MRTA, had approximately 5,000 members. AARTA and MRTA dues were both \$3.00. AARTA had an office on the second floor of the "new Board of Education building, Riva Road, Annapolis." On July 1, 1975, retired teachers in Maryland received a cost-of-living increase ranging up to 10.9%. Two AARTA members, Ethel N. Andrew and Ruth P Eason, were to be honored at the MRTA Annual Convention in Ocean City in September.



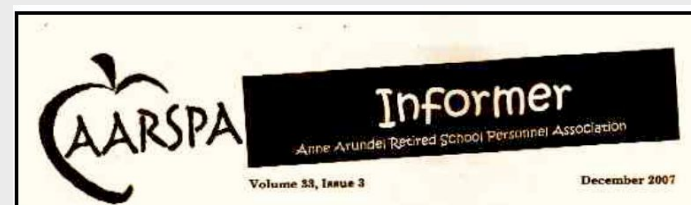
In August of 1979, the newsletter adopted the name **The Informer**, and the masthead included the "Lamp of Learning" inscribed with "1940", the year of AARTA's inception. Mr. Norwood Wetherhold was AARTA's President, while Lena A. Clemmer was the newsletter editor. Kay Kibler provided the following information about the Free School: "...The Maryland Historical Trust...and the Board of Education are waiting for the Historical Structures Report being done by Joseph Wollon, Architect. When the report has been completed and analyzed, the next step will be to apply for funds for architectural drawings, then funds for structural preservation." The cost for a planned all-day trip to Washington to visit the Air and Space Museum, Woodrow Wilson's Home, and the Textile Museum was \$6.00.



In August 1980, a new logo was added to the masthead which featured aspects of the Maryland flag as well as the inscribed lamp. The August 1981 issue of the **The Informer** was the first that was professionally printed. Luncheon at La Fontaine Bleu in Glen Burnie on September 17, 1981, cost \$7.85.



At the Annual Business meeting in May 2007, the Association's name changed to the "Anne Arundel Retired School Personnel Association" or AARSPA. This change was noted in the title of the August issue of the newsletter: **AARSPA Informer**. The masthead, however, still included the AARTA logo. Betty Ann White, President of the Association, reminded members, "we are the watchdogs of the retirement/pension system." Tickets for the **Holiday Spectacular** at the Meyerhoff in Baltimore were \$36.00. The Free School "is open for visitors on Sunday afternoons, 1-4 p.m. through October 28, 2007". The Yarn Ladies thanked members for their donations of yarn, material, seam binding, and sewing thread.



By December, 2007, AARSPA boasted three different apple-themed logos. The version sporting a red apple was added to the masthead of the **AARSPA Informer**.

Today, the digital newsletter is available in living color through links on the AARSPA, MRSPA, and AACPS websites.



**I N F O R M E R**  
Anne Arundel Retired School Personnel Association  
August 2024

Volume 50 Issue 1



# FROM THE FREE SCHOOL MUSEUM

**Annerrundell County Free School Museum**  
1298 Lavall Drive  
Davidsonville, MD 21035

Open Houses 2025  
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Special timed events are noted

### Dates and Activities

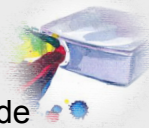
**April 13, 2025**

Display of math textbooks and teaching tools, i.e. an abacus



**May 11, 2025**

At 2:00 p.m., there will be a slide presentation on the renovation process



**June 8, 2025**

Materials will be provided, and guests can make a clay pinch pot to take home



**July 13, 2025**

At 2:00 p.m., a docent will conduct a story time for elementary school-aged children. Guests can take home a children's book from a present-day collection of books.



**August 10, 2025**

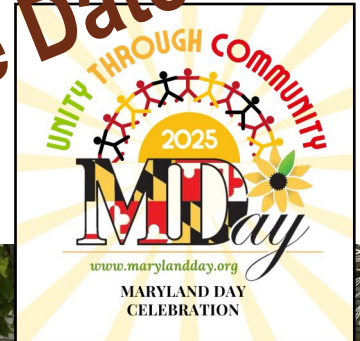
Open House

For additional information, contact Karlie Everett at [karlieeverett@verizon.net](mailto:karlieeverett@verizon.net).

All activities and materials are free for participants.



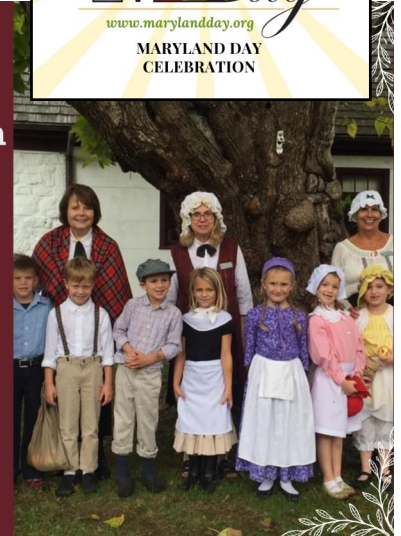
# Save the Date



Go Back in Time for a Day of Colonial Education with the Annerrundell County Free School Museum

Celebrate Maryland Day with us at the Free School

**MARCH 23, 2025**  
1-4PM



### Greetings!

Come join us at the Annerrundell County Free School Museum for a day of colonial education to celebrate Maryland Day!

We're going back in time to go to school!

Annerrundell County Free School Museum  
1298 Lavall Drive, Davidsonville  
MD, 21035  
March 23, 2025  
1pm-4pm

Join us for an exciting day of:

- 🍎 Meeting the farmer
- 🍎 Planting your own corn seed
- 🍎 Making your own butter
- 🍎 Eating authentic johnnycakes
- 🍎 Writing with a quill and black walnut ink
- 🍎 Playing lawn games and wooden toys

Best Regards,

The Annerrundell Free School Museum

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

This membership meeting is called to order!

MEMBERSHIP in AARSPA and MRSPA is important to US. We know the value of being part of both organizations. We understand the importance of our outreach/community projects, the historical aspects of the Annarrundel Free School, and the collegial atmosphere of our general meeting luncheons. We are very aware of MRSPA's oversight of the state legislature in protecting our present pensions, safeguarding our future needs, and keeping track of future educational impacts. NOW we need to make it important to others.

As your database keeper, I can tell you our numbers are dwindling quickly, and if we do not act, both organizations are in jeopardy of becoming part of the history books. What do we need? NEW MEMBERS – not just the newly retired personnel, but we need to regain those who have not rejoined for various reasons.

This situation is not hopeless, but it does require work. Not just from the executive board but from all of YOU! What can I do, you ask? Let me count the ways:

- TALK – it costs nothing. Whenever you have the opportunity to relate with others, spread the word.
- TAKE a membership form (or two) – Fold the application form (which includes both the local and state), place it in an envelope, and take it with you (ladies, it will fit in your purse).
- MAIL the application to an out-of-area friend – espousing the value and importance of membership, especially for their future.

This spring, MRSPA will not be doing a blind mailing across the state as they are putting a great deal of effort into boosting our visibility to all retired school personnel. They are still offering the reduced membership fee from March 1 through May 31. Applications are available on the MRSPA website.

- Leslie Schell  
Membership Committee Chair



## Dues Deduction

MRSPA deducts New or Switch and Save member dues any month. Dues deduction files are sent to the Maryland State Retirement Agency (MSRA) on/by the 6<sup>th</sup> of each month. MRSPA receives the deduction report from the state on the 30<sup>th</sup> of each month and 10 days to two weeks later, local treasurers should receive their payment checks. Dues are still deducted only once ANNUALLY, per membership year.

## Legislative Report

The Maryland General Assembly is back in session. This year they are faced with a \$3 billion structural deficit. This deficit has been in the making for years but was covered by the extra money coming from the federal government because of the pandemic. That source of income is done. Hard decisions must be made.

Governor Moore has presented his Budget plan. It includes no increase in the sales tax or property taxes. His approach is to overhaul the tax system in Maryland. He proposes changes that will result in tax decreases for many and increases for the wealthiest Marylanders and an decrease in the corporate tax. His package includes broad proposals for bringing more growth to the Maryland economy.

Many difficult and important decisions must be made. The Governor and the leaders of the General Assembly have expressed continued strong support for the Blueprint for Maryland as we strive to make lasting improvements to Maryland schools. Some adaptations and tweaks will be necessary.

This will not be a year for costly new programs, but the MRSPA legislative committee will continue our best efforts to protect our Priorities and our members. Follow our work on the MRSPA web site (mrspa.org).

- Virginia Crespo  
Legislative Committee Chair



**AARPSA on the Eastern Shore**  
**Ocean Pines Yacht Club**  
**1 Mumfords Landing Road**  
**Ocean Pines, MD 21811**  
**410-641-7501**

We will once again hold a luncheon on the Eastern Shore and this time it will be at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club. With help from Madelyn Scott, we were able to set up the luncheon on Friday, April 11, 2025 beginning at 12:00pm. Again, we are hoping that members who live in on the Eastern Shore and Delaware will join us for this event. The cost per entrée plus a soft drink will be \$29.25. A cash bar is also available.

The luncheon entrée choices are:

- Bowl of cream of crab soup and a winter salad
- Key Largo fish (lightly fried grouper), sweet potato fries, jerk honey mustard, & slaw
- Crab cake sandwich, chips & pickle
- The Galley sandwich – smoked turkey, shaved roast beef, gouda cheese, etc. & fries

**All reservations must be received no later than Wednesday, April 2, 2025.**

If you know of a retired employee of the Anne Arundel County Public Schools System who is not a member but might be interested in joining us, please invite them to this luncheon. Maybe we can convince them to become a member!

Send the reservation form below along with the payment to: **Bob Kanach, 512 Augusta Drive, Arnold, MD 21012**. Again, the reservation and payment must be received no later than Wednesday, April 2, 2025.



Contact person: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name	Soup/Salad	Key Largo	Crab Cake	The Galley
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Total due: \$\_\_\_\_\_. Please make checks payable to AARSPA. Mail this form and payment to:

**Bob Kanach**  
**512 Augusta Drive**  
**Arnold, MD 21012**

\_\_\_\_\_ Please check here if you are an emeritus member, that is 90 years or older. You do not have to pay!



Anne Arundel Retired School Personnel Association  
 2644 Riva Road  
 Annapolis, MD 21401





## *Scholarship Fund Donation*

*Scholarships are of the utmost importance to ensure the contribution of quality teachers entering the education profession.*

*I wish to make a donation to the scholarship fund.*

**Donation Amount is:** \_\_\_\_\_

**In memory of:** \_\_\_\_\_

**In honor of:** \_\_\_\_\_

**for:**

\_\_\_\_\_ birthday \_\_\_\_\_ anniversary

\_\_\_\_\_ other (please indicate) \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make checks payable to:**

Anne Arundel Retired School Personnel Association  
 or for

Tax Deductible Donations, make checks payable to:  
 Education Foundation of AACPS

**Mail checks to:**

Matilda Barckley  
 8238 Great Bend Road  
 Glen Burnie, MD 21061

**Name and Address of the honoree:**

*We will inform the honoree(s) and/or the family of the deceased that a gift has been made to the scholarship fund.*

**Send notice of my donation to:**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Donor's Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

*For questions, please contact:*

*Matilda Barckley barckleya@comcast.net 410-768-3408*